

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

FIELD DIARY

Biological Survey
Elk Ranch, at
Mr. _____
Jackson, Wyo.

(Official title.)

1915

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James Wilson
Secretary of Agriculture.

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Biological Survey Elk Ranch
Jackson, Wyo.

The needs of the elk ranch have been somewhat agitated but with care it is thought this can be made one of the most interesting and attractive spots in the country.

It will soon be a good automobile road through Yellowstone Park and should be considered a part of our great Park system.

It is ideally located for a demonstration of the practical value of raising elk for market & home use and for stocking reserves and national forests.

Public land -

40. $NE^4 SE^4$ Sec. 11 T. 41 N R. 16 W.
80. $SE^4 SE^4 + SE^4 SW^4$ Sec. 13 " "
40. $SW^4 SE^4$ Sec. 22, " "

Tracts included in the area of Elk Ranch and vacant land that someone will buy & make trouble over. Should be withdrawn at once & purchased or proclaimed game refuge.

The SE boundary of refuge should be extruded from corner of 26, 27, 34, 35 half a mile S. to the greater corner between 34 & 35, and straight east 2 miles to range line and north $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles to private claim, then west $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to top present line of refuge.

This takes in a lot of good winter range for elk which spend hundred winters each year and do not come down to be fed.

None of this tract is agricultural land or ever will be or fit for settlement. It is too steep for stock to graze and the timber is not much good on the cold slopes. It should be withdrawn and made a part of the road or else put into Nat. Forest.

The line really should go east to join the Nat. Forest.

A few deer winter ^{on} ~~in~~ this tract and it would make an ideal little elk summer range for a domestic elk herd. + a few moose ^{buffalo, moose, elk} & M. Sheep.

A few blue grouse live on top of this tract and there is a good opening on it.

A fence is greatly needed along the road to save the grass on the butte, which is now included in the elk ranch - (all except 80 acres that should be added). The warm slopes of this ridge are the favorite ground of the main herd that is being fed and they are rarely covered with snow.

At present the grass is grazed close in summer by the town horses and cattle which water at the big springs. About 2 miles of fence would keep stock out of this area and cut off all watering places so they would not range out this way from town. Mr. Nowlin estimates that this range would be equal to 75 tons of hay a year but it would also save many calves & weak elk that die here because they do not get down to the bay. It would also protect the big springs from

being disturbed by stock and campers
and travel along the road as
now a side road leads down to
them. These are wonderful watering
refuges in winter and breeding
grounds in summer so should be
given as full protection as possible.

This fence would cost about
460 dollars - - -
and should be made of two rails and
two wires on back stiles, nearly to
turn stock. This is the type of fence
on the east of the ranch

The timber should be gotten out
this winter.

Wires & staples about 60
Buckets & poles 400.

Can be built by the 2 men on the place.

Paint.

The roofs off all the buildings on the place are badly in need of painting. No paint has ever been put on anything on the ranch. - The buildings, house, office, shop, & barn are all of smooth peeled logs or hewed logs with corners & casings & good shingle roofs but they would look better & last much longer if well painted. It would only be necessary to buy the materials as two men are kept on the place & could do all the painting between other work.

Teams - There is one good team on the elk Ranch but another team is greatly needed. The meadows are run down and yield about half the hay they should. They need plowing and seeding and some need only discing but 2 horses can not break & disc this tough sod. Another team is needed in laying and in hauling hay to the elk.

The initial cost of a suitable team would be about 400. and a harness about 50.

Machinery -

2 mowers

2 rakes

1 seed drill

1 breaking plow

Haying machinery

Mr. Miller has a lot of machinery on the place that could be bought at a low rate.

Saddle Horse.

Mr. Norlin wants a saddle horse & is willing to buy it himself but wants to know if it is all right to keep it on the place. He needs it to ride over the place & to warn & to look after the elk & would use it mainly on official business.

He also wants to keep a cow & wants to know if this is all right.

There is abundance of pasture on the place that is not utilized by elk or for hay so the keeping of a cow and horses is of no detriment to the place.

Labors.

At present Mr. Novolin has two excellent young men working on the ranch. They have been laying up to the present time and are now harvesting the oats and when these are stacked they will be about through the summer work. There is fall plowing to be done and a lot of painting ought to be done on the place. Coyotes are numerous and they ought to traps for a month to get them cleaned out before the elk come down.

Elk feeding ought to keep them busy most of the winter and they could be used to help count elk over the valley. This is mainly left to forest rangers but they think the B.S. ought to do some of it.

There is a lot of fencing to
be done in spring & the buck-
stick should be made this winter
and the men could help —
getting out & hauling rods &
sticks.

There is plenty of work on
the ranch for two good men
& two good teams all the
year & besides all that
Mr. Nowlin can do.

Bird refuge -

The wonderful opportunity for an all the year around bird refuge & breeding & wintering grounds is little realized on the elk ranch. The many very large springs are always open and full of ducks and swans & other birds.

By feeding and planting duck foods in the ponds and marshes now birds can be maintained.

A few wild geese nest here in the marshes. Evans used to stop here & could easily be raised.

There are other large springs & ponds down by Mr. Leeks place below Jackson.

Flags for Elk Ranch
Traps & bait
Stove

Piper should be in field to
get trappers started as long as
necessary and then out in Feb.
or March to stir them up &
hunting pups.

- He wants a note of formal
contract with trappers so they
will feel responsibility to us -
certificates of good faith.

Wants more traps &
must have bait.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

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DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS AND DISBURSEMENTS,
Washington, D. C.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DISBURSING CLERK,

8-833

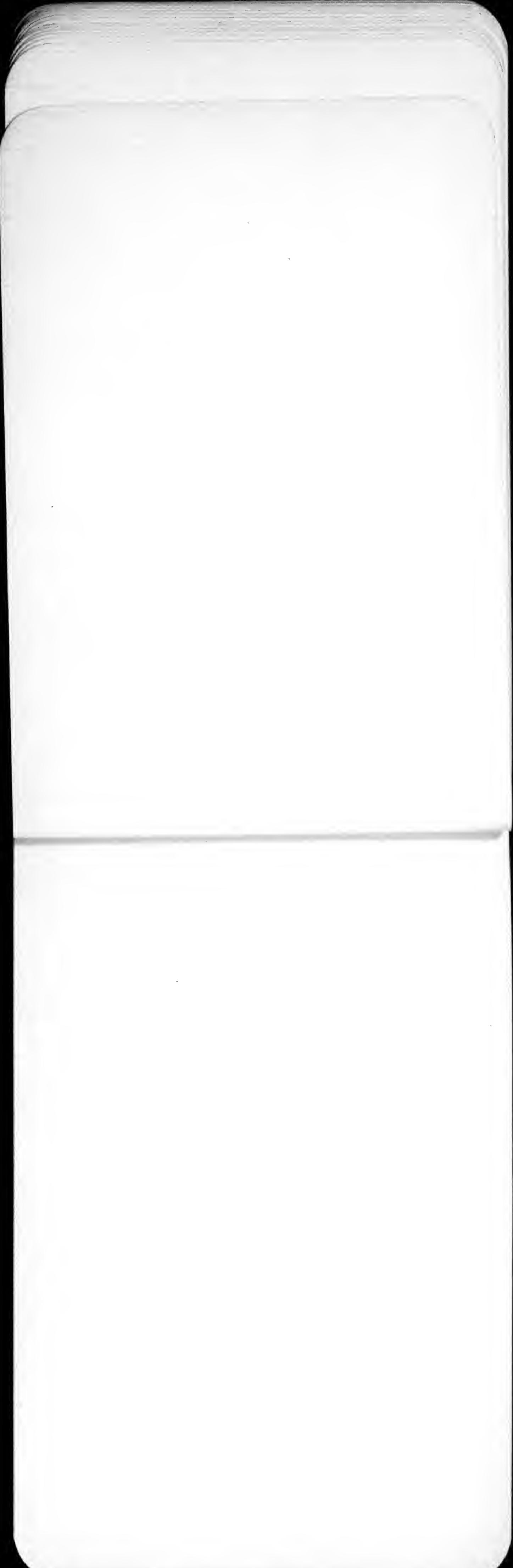
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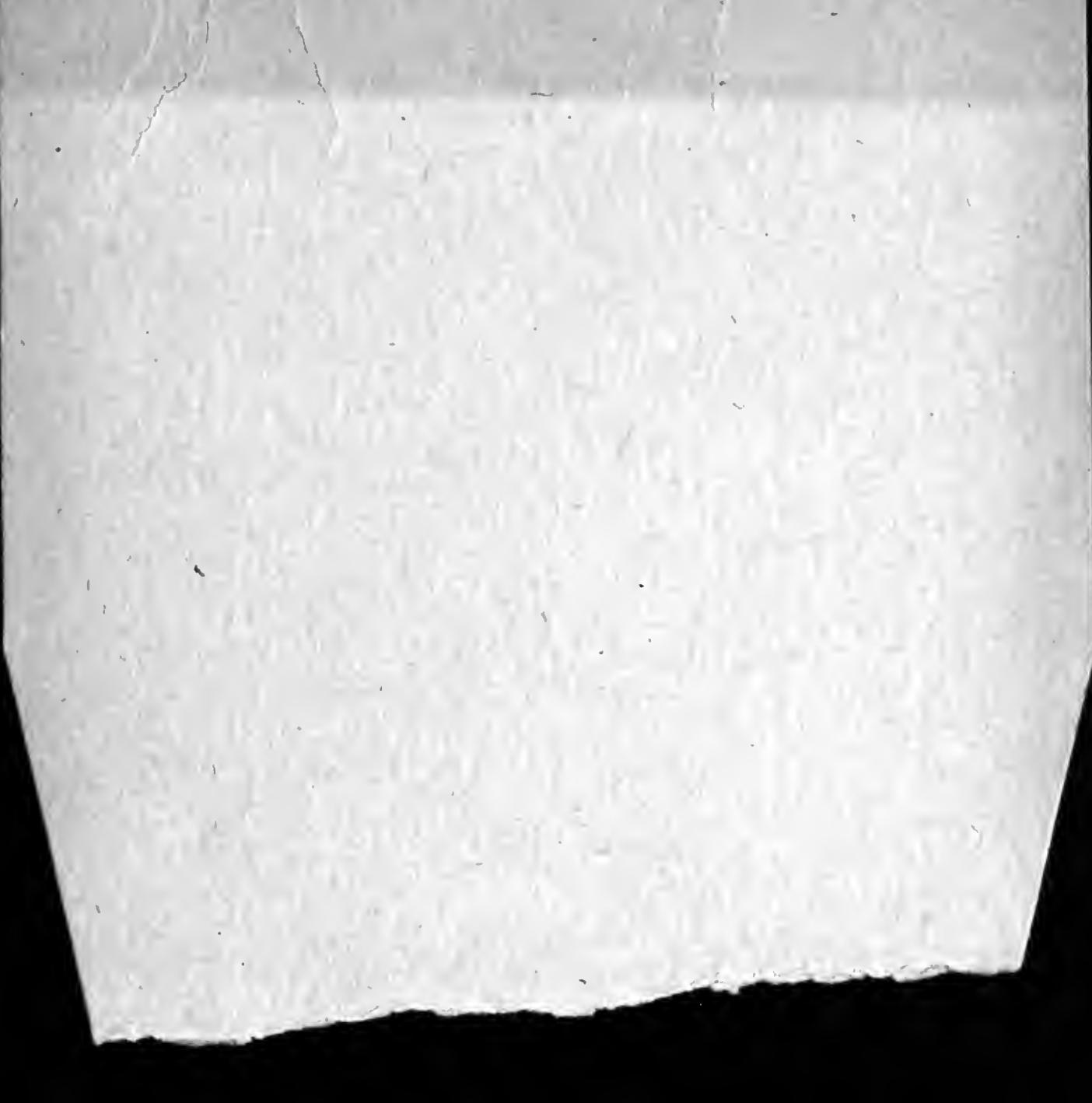
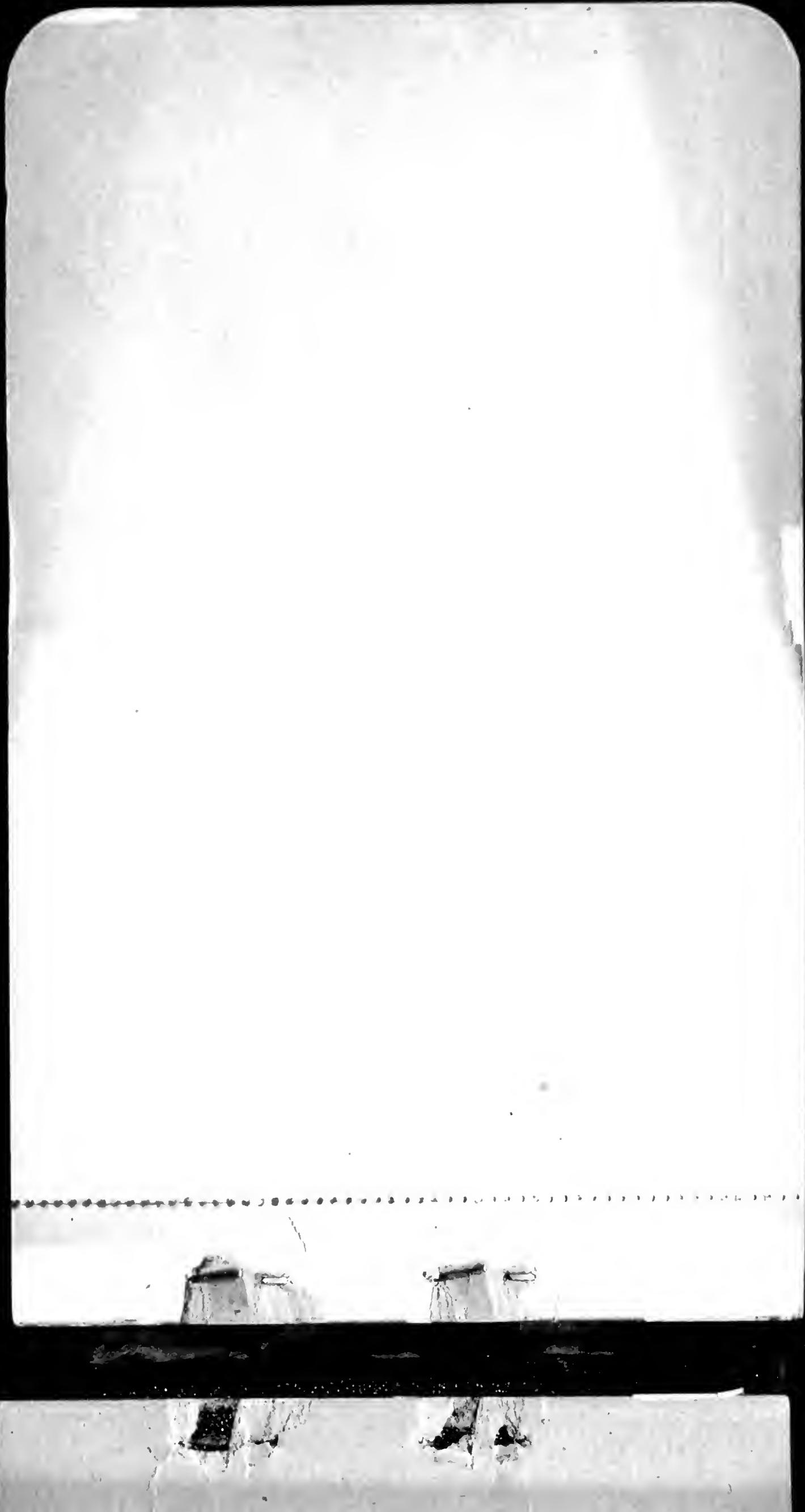
Piper wants canvas bags of
Naphthaline (flock) finished traps
in Texas & etc & top skins from other
milit sent in. After arrival,

Skulls in sugar water to keep
maggots -

Cooperation with Forest Service
in trapping wolves & coyotes -
Furnishing traps & bait & information
for inspectors -

over





1905